

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 082962
ORIGIN NEA-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-05 ISO-00 /009 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:PWLANDE:CF

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 082962

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D COPY (GARBLED THROUGHOUT TEXT)

FOL REPEAT ISLAMABAD 3591 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 12 APR 77

QUOTE: S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 3591

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO KARACHI FROM LAHORE
13 APRIL RPEATED YOU:

QUOTE SECRET LAHORE 0353

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK, PINT

SUBJECT: RUMORED ARREST OF PRIME MINISTER; INTERPARTY
NEGOTIATIONS

REF: KARACH 1709

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1. IN ORDER CHECK OUT RUMOR (REFTEL) MET AT 11:00 A.M.
APRIL 12 WITH M.S. BAQIR, SECRETARY OF PPP CENTRAL CO-
ORDINATING COMMITTEE. INFORMED HIM THAT STORY CURRENTLY
GOING ROUND IN KARACHI PRESS CIRCLES THAT PRIME MINISTER
PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST ON APRIL 9 AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS
UNDER WAY REGARDING TERMS FOR HIS RESIGNATION. ASKED FOR
COMMENTS.

2. BAQIR DISMISSED RUMOR OF HOUSE ARREST AS BASELESS. SAID PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN MEETING DAILY WITH MANY PARTY/GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SEEKING WAY OUT OF PRESENT POLITICAL IMPASSE AND HAD ATTENDED DINNER FOR NEW PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS ON APRIL 10.

3. BAQIR WENT ON TO SAY THAT EXTREMELY COMPLICATED NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND LEADERSHIP (UNIDENTIFIED) OF OPPOSITION. HE ATTRIBUTED CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE TO REPORT IN NAWA-I-WAQT THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL BAKHTIAR HAD REMARKED AT LAWYERS' RECEPTION RECENTLY HELD IN KARACHI THAT FRESH PROVINCIAL ELECTION COULD BE HELD AND THAT IF THEY RESULTED IN OPPOSITION VICTORY, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD BE DISSOLVED. BAQIR SAID THIS PROPOSAL HAD PRIME MINISTER'S ENDORSEMENT AND THAT ANY NEW ELECTIONS WOULD "THIS TIME" BE STRICTLY HONEST AND HELD UNDER ARMY SUPERVISION. HE ADDED THAT A NUMBER OF COMMITTEES ARE WORKING UNDER PRIME MINISTER'S DIRECTION STUDYING SUCH ITEMS AS DENATIONALIZATION OF CERTAIN INDUSTRIES AND CONSTITUTIONAL CONSEQUENCES OF PROPOSALS BEING MADE TO OPPOSITION. HE SAID ALL OF THIS WOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO WORK OUT AND THIS ACCOUNTED FOR PRIME MINISTER'S STAY IN LAHORE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE BAQIR IS NOT IN CENTER OF THIS TYPE OF PARTY ACTION AT THIS TIME, HE HAS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH KEY PARTY LEADERS AND PROBABLY HAS FAIRLY ACCURATE IDEA OF WHAT IS GOING ON. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO INDICATION AT THIS
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TIME THAT OPPOSITION IS IN A MOOD TO NEGOTIATE. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, LAHORE PRESS CIRCLES WITH WHOM WE HAVE CHECKED CLAIM TO BE UNAWARE OF KARACHI RUMOR. GAMON UNQUOTE BYROADE UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: CABINET, ALLEGATIONS, ARRESTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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